

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-12 are pending. Claims 7-12 have been rejected. Claims 7-8 and 10-12 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The drawings have been objected to because of minor informalities in the drawings. Figure 4 has been amended to change the block corresponding to reference numeral 4 to read – voltage comparison circuit – and the block corresponding to reference numeral 1E to read – voltage conversion circuit –. No new matter has been added. Approval of the drawing change is requested. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected to for numerous informalities. The specification has been amended in view of the Examiner's comments and suggestions. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification also has been objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of Claim 12. Figure 16 expressly shows a plurality of variable gain amplifiers connected in the series with blocks 601 and 602. Further, Applicant notes that the variable gain amplifiers labeled as VGA, and numbered 1st through n-th in both blocks 601 and 602 are coupled to the gain control circuits 11. Applicant respectfully submits that the language on page 50 lines 2-3 that reads “various gain amplifiers can be constituted by changing a combination of an amplifier” indicates that other control circuits may be used, and thus the circuits recited in Figure 4 may be used in the VGAs of figure 16. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has amended Claim 12 to expressly recite the limitations of amended Claim 7. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12 have been objected to for various informalities. In view of the Examiner's comments and suggestions, Claims 7, 8, and 10-12 have been amended. Applicant did not make the suggested change to Claims 7 of amending “ninth differential output” to – a ninth output – because the output of the fourth voltage conversion circuit is a differential output. It is asserted in the Office Action that the output of the fourth voltage conversion circuit is one output and not a differential output because the output of the voltage conversion circuit 1E of Figure 4 is supposedly one output. Applicant notes that the specification on page 21, lines 11-15, describe the voltage conversion circuit 1E, and specifically states “[t]he voltage conversion circuit 1E converts the reference input voltage

Vref1 in the control input voltage Vc into a differential output voltage on the basis of the ratio determined with the gain control signal Vgmcont4.” Accordingly, Claim 7 has not been amended for this change as proposed by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7-12 have been amended in view of the Examiner’s comments and suggestions to further clarify the invention. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph and the minor informalities set forth in the Office Action. In view of the above amendments and the above comments regarding the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 7-12 are now allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in an allowable form, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

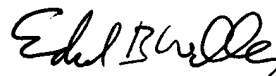
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 07-1896, **referencing docket number 2102475-991151**.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY USA LLP

Dated: February 2, 2005

By



Edward B. Weller
Reg. No. 37,468

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Edward B. Weller
DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP
2000 University Avenue
East Palo Alto, CA 94303-2248
650-833-2436 (Direct)
650-833-2000 (Main)
650-833-2001 (Facsimile)
edward.weller@dlapiper.com

APPENDIX

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 4. This sheet, which includes Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

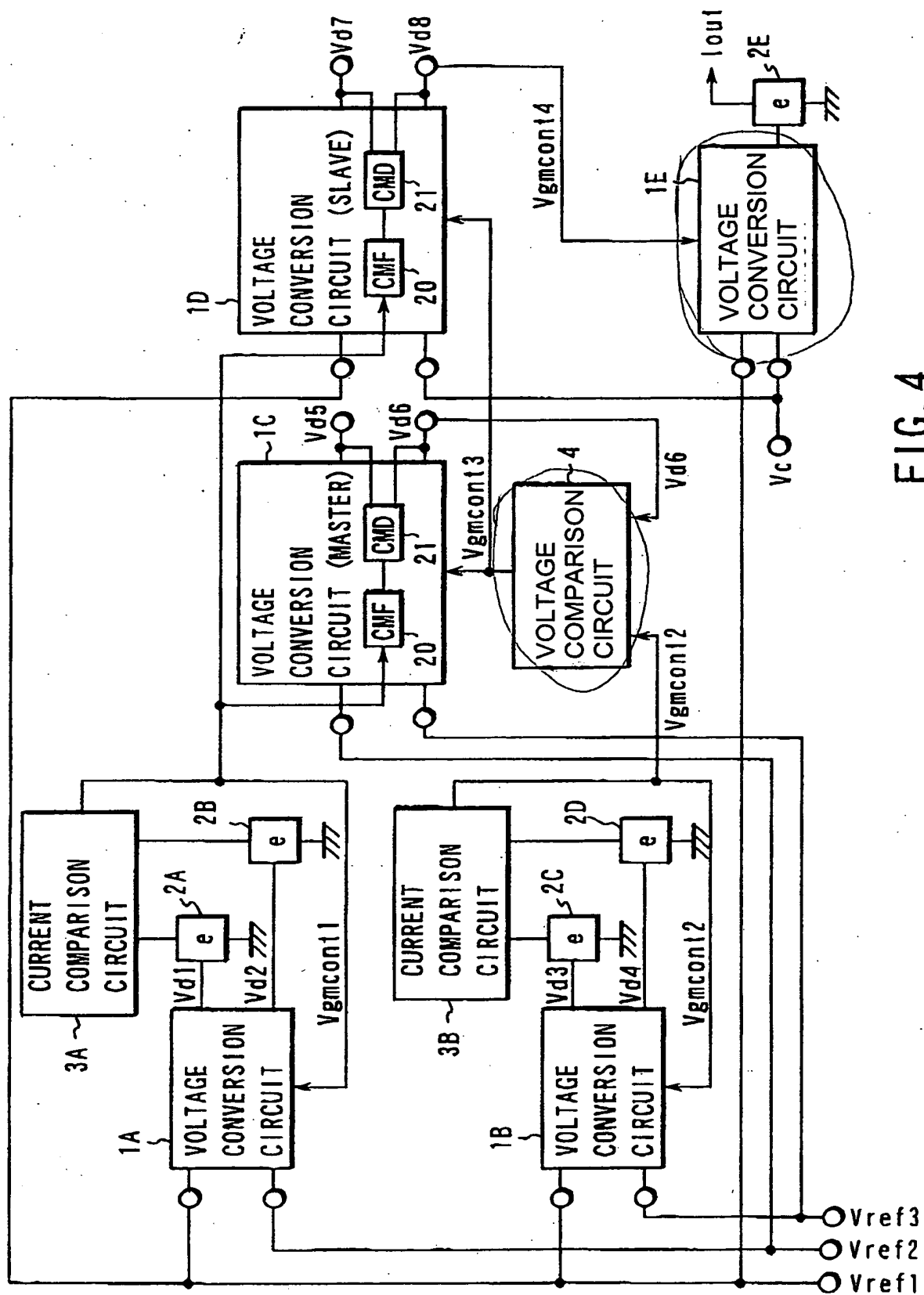


FIG. 4